

Destroying Strongholds, Defeating the Enemy

November 13-19, 2011

PRAYER: Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

OPENER: Have you ever explored a cave? What do you remember most about your experience?

Read: Joshua 10:16-21

DISCUSS: What happened to the five Amorite kings? Why do you think they were hiding rather than fighting with their troops? (10:10-11)

Read: Joshua 10:22-26

What was the meaning of Joshua's instruction in verse 24? What might be the comparable action today?

Read: Joshua 10:24-28

How did Joshua encourage his troops in word and deed?

How might succeeding generations of Israelites have felt when they saw the cave at Makkedah? (Disgust? Pride? Curiosity? Or what?) and why?

As a child, what activity or game gave you a feeling of being a part of a team? Where do you experience that feeling now?

Read: Joshua 10:29-39

What major cities did the Israelites attack? What was the outcome of each attack?

Do you notice a pattern in how each victory is reported? What is this pattern?

What is meant by the repeated phrase, "Then Joshua and all Israel with him..." (vv. 29,31,34,36,38)?

Read: Joshua 10:40-43

According to verse 40-42, how much of the Promised Land had been conquered up to this point?

Read: Joshua 11:1-5

How did the northern kings respond when they heard about the Israelite victories in the south?

Why might Joshua have been afraid of this army even after his many victories?

Read: Joshua 11:6-15

How does the Lord speak to that fear? (verse 6) Why the instructions about destroying even the horses and chariots (see Psalm 33:16-17)?

What was the result of Joshua's sudden attack? Why do you think Hazor got special attention (vv.10,13)?

What reason does the author give for the total destruction of these cities (vv.12-15)?

Why is the command to Moses mentioned?

Read: Joshua 11:16-23

According to this chapter, why were Joshua and the Israelites successful in their conquest of the Promised Land, in spite of overwhelming odds against them?

PLAN for ACTION:

The enemy in the north of Canaan united to resist Israel's advance, and their forces were formidable. But God assured Joshua that he would win the battle, and he did. God assures us before the battle (11:6), fights for us during the battle (11:8), and commands us after the battle (11:9, 15). How we follow orders after the victory is as important as what we do before the battle begins.

Where in your life is it evident that the Lord is fighting for you?

Do you have anyone alongside you in that battle? Who?

At what points can you identify with Joshua: a) When all his enemies are coming to attack him? B) When he is winning but the war is lasting a long time? C) When the land finally had rest from war?

Do you always expect success when you are obedient to God? Why or why not?

How can this group pray for you this week?